

7-0229

11 May 1955

PERSONAL

Honorable Herbert Brownell, Jr.  
The Attorney General  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Herb:

I called you back today to answer your telephone inquiry of yesterday, but as you were out of town, I am giving you a report by letter.

Attached is the Executive Order establishing the "National Security Medal" together with a letter from the then President to the Director of Central Intelligence dated 19 January 1953, authorizing the Director to make awards of the Medal in accordance with the regulations. No further rules and regulations have been promulgated under the Executive Order as none have seemed necessary.

It seems obvious to me that the delegation of authority to the Director of Central Intelligence in no way impairs the right of the President to make a direct award of the Medal as he may desire.

Personally, I should be very glad to see the award made and have available the necessary medal, ribbon and certificate; the citation could be prepared as desired by the President.

So far only four awards have been made. These include Bedell Smith and three other persons whose names I could give you orally, but whose identity should not be divulged at this time. This raises the only problem I see in making the award you proposed; namely, the withholding of the names of all other recipients with the possible exception of Bedell. If the President and you felt that this could be done, I see no obstacle whatever to proceeding to carry out the suggestion. Certainly the proposed recipient richly deserves this honor.

Faithfully yours,

Enclosures

AWD:hea

Addressee - Orig

DCI - 1 cc

ER - 1 cc

Reading - 1 cc

Allen W. Dulles

Director

**C O P Y**

**THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington, D. C.**

**January 19, 1953**

**Dear Mr. Director:**

Pursuant to Executive Order 10431 signed by me this date, I hereby authorize you to make awards of the National Security Medal in accordance with the attached regulations, which I hereby approve.

You are also authorized to prepare for the President's approval such further rules and regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of Executive Order 10431, as may be necessary from time to time to accomplish its purposes.

**Very sincerely yours,**

**/s/ Harry Truman**

**Honorable Walter B. Smith  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D. C.**

CDPY

(From the

**FEDERAL REGISTER**

**Volume 18, Number 14**

**Washington, Thursday, January 22, 1953**

**Page 437)**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 10431**

**NATIONAL SECURITY MEDAL**

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the armed forces of the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. There is hereby established a medal to be known as the National Security Medal with accompanying ribbons and appurtenances. The medal and its appurtenances shall be of appropriate design, approved by the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.
2. The National Security Medal may be awarded to any person, without regard to nationality, including members of the armed forces of the United States, for distinguished achievement or outstanding contribution on or after July 26, 1947, in the field of intelligence relating to the national security.
3. The decoration established by this order shall be awarded by the President of the United States or, under regulations approved by him, by such person or persons as he may designate.
4. No more than one National Security Medal shall be awarded to any one person, but for subsequent services justifying an award, a suitable device may be awarded to be worn with the Medal.
5. Members of the armed forces of the United States who are awarded the decoration established by this order are authorized to wear the medal and the ribbon symbolic of the award, as may be authorized by uniform regulations approved by the Secretary of Defense.
6. The decoration established by this order may be awarded posthumously.

**HARRY S. TRUMAN**

**THE WHITE HOUSE,**

C O P Y

(From The

**FEDERAL REGISTER**

Volume 18, Number 14

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pages 437 and 439)

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 10431**

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**Regulations Governing the Award of  
the NATIONAL SECURITY MEDAL**

Pursuant to Paragraph 2 of the Executive Order 10431, the following regulations are hereby issued to govern the award of the National Security Medal:

1. The National Security Medal may be awarded to any person without regard to nationality, including a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, who, on or after 26 July 1947, has made an outstanding contribution to the National intelligence effort. This contribution may consist of either exceptionally meritorious service performed in a position of high responsibility or of an act of valor requiring personal courage of a high degree and complete disregard of personal safety.
2. The National Security Medal with accompanying ribbon and appurtenances, shall be of appropriate design to be approved by the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.
3. The National Security Medal shall be awarded only by the President or his designee for that purpose.
4. Recommendations may be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council by any individual having personal knowledge of the facts of the exceptionally meritorious conduct or act of valor of the candidate in the performance of outstanding services, either as an eyewitness or from the testimony of others who have personal knowledge or were eyewitnesses. Any recommendations shall be accompanied by complete documentation, including where necessary, certificates, affidavits or sworn transcripts of testimony. Each recommendation for an award shall show the exact status, at the time of

the rendition of the service on which the recommendation is based, with respect to citizenship, employment, and all other material factors, of the person who is being recommended for the National Security Medal.

5. Each recommendation shall contain a draft of an appropriate citation to accompany the award of the National Security Medal.

Approved:

HARRY S. TRUMAN  
January 19, 1953

/F.R. Doc. 53-785; Filed, Jan. 19, 1953; 4:09 p.m.]